

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 and 9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 8 is canceled by this amendment. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 and 9 are allowed.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Ortiz (U.S. 6,392,704) in view of Blackshear (U.S. 4,945,367). As discussed above, however, claim 8 has been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Tetsurou KAJINO et al.

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/ke
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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